

## Environmental Policy

JRTC and Fort Polk embraces organizational and individual environmental stewardship, innovation and initiative as the means to achieve sustainable development while protecting the natural and human environment. Our Environmental Management System (EMS) provides the corporate framework for establishing objectives and targets to progress toward continual improvement, effectiveness and efficiency.

To that end, this installation is committed to:

- ♦ Mission Support
- ♦ Prevention of Pollution
- ♦ Training and Education
- ♦ Sustainable Use
- ♦ Legal Compliance
- ♦ Community Involvement
- ♦ Continual Improvement

## EMS Installation Benefits

- ♦ Improved understanding of key environmental issues and their impact on our mission and community
- ♦ Increased efficiency and use of energy and materials, thus reducing waste
- ♦ Improved ability to meet legal compliance requirements
- ♦ Reduced number and scope of negative impacts to the environment from military operations
- ♦ Improved image and relationship with the local community

## Consequences of Non-Conformance with Policy and EMS

- ♦ Enforcement actions from federal and state regulators as a result of failing to comply with legal and regulatory environmental requirements
- ♦ Expenditures of unprogrammed funds to correct environmental deficiencies
- ♦ Restrictions on installation training and operations
- ♦ Adverse Mission impacts and reduction of mission proficiency
- ♦ Disciplinary actions



### Environmental Office

Phone: 531-6008 or 531-7008

Fax: 531-8950 or 531-2604

1647 23rd St, Building 2516

Fort Polk, LA 71459

Last update: Feb 8, 2006

Directorate Of Public Works  
Environmental And Natural Resources  
Management Division

## Fort Polk Environmental Management System (EMS)

*What is the purpose of the Fort Polk  
EMS in 2 words?*

*\* Continuous Improvement \**



## What Is an EMS ?

An Environmental Management System (EMS) is part of the overall installation management system that specifically addresses the potential risks from Army activities on the environment. EMS is a tool that can help ensure that our Soldiers today – and the Soldiers of the future – have the land, water, and air resources that they need to train; a healthy environment in which to live; and the support of our local communities and the American people. E.O. 13148, “Greening the Government through Leadership in Environmental Management,” requires implementation of EMS at all appropriate federal facilities by December 31, 2005. The Army took the EO a step further with the issuance of Army EMS policy in the July 13, 2001 Army EMS Action Memorandum signed by the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Environment, Safety and Occupational Health). That memorandum requires all appropriate Army facilities to implement an ISO 14001-conforming EMS that is mission-focused by Fiscal Year 2009.

## Does Fort Polk Have an EMS ?

Fort Polk was among the first Army installations to develop and successfully implement an EMS. The Environmental Quality Control Committee (EQCC) is the centerpiece of our EMS and serves as the corporate governing body or “top level management” team. The Garrison Commander serves as the Chief Executive Officer for the EQCC. All directors and

major subordinate commanders are EQCC voting members. The EQCC includes key stakeholders such as major installation tenants and other federal agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service.

## How Does the Concept of Sustainability Fit Into Our EMS?

The Fort Polk EMS supports the Department of the Army strategy for the environment: “sustain the mission – secure the future.”

Sustainable Development of natural resources, sustainable land use, sustainable construction and operation of facilities, and sustainable military training programs will allow us to meet our mission today and into the future.

Our EMS serves as a relational system that will allow us to cooperatively engage our training mission, our natural environment, and our human community to secure the future.

## What Are Some of the Accomplishments of the Fort Polk EMS ?

- ◆ Continued operation of the HAZMART by using fair share contributions from both installation and mission funds.
- ◆ Prioritized and funded the replacement of a failed wastewater treatment process thereby maintaining compliance with a critical regulatory permit condition.

- ◆ Developed and implemented an installation-wide internal assessment program.
- ◆ Developed and established a sustainability and environmental monitoring program to protect and enhance the quality of training lands and ranges.
- ◆ Recognized exceptional accomplishments by individuals and units at the installation, state, and national levels.

## EMS 2-Way Communication Process

Installation leaders convey environmental information and requirements to the community through the chain of command. Soldiers, civilians, and others on the installation are obligated to convey environmental observations, concerns, issues, and problems through their chain of command, their environmental compliance officer (ECO), or the installation environmental office.

## EMS and Environmental Stewardship

Environmental stewardship is an individual’s duty, responsibility, and obligation to conduct and manage their life, and perform their daily mission, operation, and job duties in a manner to protect and preserve all aspects of the natural environment and natural resources by preventing or minimizing any negative impact to the environment.